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Telephone: (03) 96459797
Fax: (03) 96459796

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Website:
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E-Mail:
info@southmelbournesc.com.au

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Bob Jane Stadium for the first all-Melbourne clash of the 2002/03 season. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Andrew Marth and his squad for today's game as well as the Melbourne Knights fans.

South Melbourne has certainly had an eventful last two weeks. A fortnight ago, our largest crowd of the year saw us take on reigning NSL Champions, the Olympic Sharks. The game coincided with the Radiomarathon Children's charity fundraiser, supported by the Club's major sponsor, Laiki Bank. South Melbourne is proud to support such a worthy event and I'd like to extend my gratitude to all South Melbourne fans who supported the Charity. I would also like to thank the Laiki Bank for their continued association with the Club.

The game itself was one that will long live in the memory. In the end, South Melbourne prevailed 6-4 with the game creating much discussion and excitement all around Melbourne. Unfortunately, the squad couldn't match that game's performance in our last match away to Adelaide with South Melbourne losing 4-0.

This brings us to today's game against our cross-town rivals. Melbourne derbies always bring out the best in both sides and I'm sure today's match will be no different. Regardless of the ladder position these games are always close, evenly fought contests. The Knights have started the season very well and will be looking to continue their run of good results. On the other hand, South Melbourne will be looking to be bounce back after the disappointing result last week and reclaim our position in the top 6.

Finally, a special thank you to all South Melbourne supporters who have renewed or became members this season. Members are the backbone of our Club and it is vital our fans continue to support the Club by buying their memberships. I would also like to thank our Corporate Sponsors who are listed in this programme for their continued support.

Once again, welcome to today's game.

Peter Mitrakas
President

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NSL LEAGUE TABLE

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE TABLE AFTER ROUND 8 11/11/02

	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	F	A	F/A	Pts
1	Olympic Sharks	8	5	2	1	16	10	6	17
2	Perth Glory	7	5	0	2	12	7	5	15
3	Adelaide City Force	7	4	2	1	15	9	6	14
4	Newcastle United	8	4	0	4	11	7	4	12
5	Melbourne Knights	7	2	5	0	12	9	3	11
6	Wollongong Wolves	8	2	4	2	8	8	0	10
7	Parramatta Power	7	2	3	2	9	8	-1	9
8	Sydney United	7	2	3	2	6	6	0	9
9	South Melbourne	7	2	2	3	11	14	-3	8
10	Football Kingz	8	1	4	3	10	10	0	7
11	Marconi Stallions	7	2	1	4	9	12	-3	7
12	Northern Spirit	7	2	1	4	9	18	-9	7
13	Brisbane Strikers	8	1	1	6	12	22	-10	4

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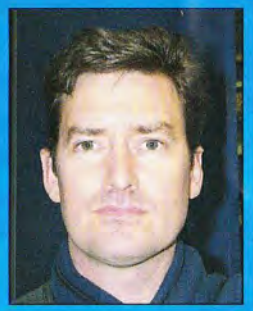
COACHES REPORT



They say a weeks a long time in politics, well it's also proven to be quite a dramatic week for our soccer club. From the ultimate high of beating the current NSL champions

A fortnight ago to the despair of losing interstate to Adelaide on the weekend, it certainly has been roller coaster ride of emotions.

Our priority at this point is to get more consistency in our performances. As a team we need to be a lot better organized defensively. That starts from the moment we lose possession to the time we win the ball back. Simple stuff but very effective if carried out persistently.

Our team has the natural attacking flair in their play to break down any defence in the league. We proved that against Sydney Olympic but today's game in some respects will be a different proposition. This is our local derby and that means you can throw the formbook out the window. Having played in one or two myself I can tell you it's no place for the faint hearted and you can expect today's game to be played out in a manner that will uphold the tradition of these two clubs great rivalry.

The Knights have exceeded most people's expectations this season and are currently undefeated. We gave Olympic their first taste of defeat a fortnight ago and our aim today is to end the Knights unbeaten run.

Congratulations must go out to our new young socceroos. Massimo, Michael and Vince go into camp with Ange Postecoglou in December for the Qualifiers and I think all three will return much stronger for the experience.

Special thanks from all the players to our supporters who made the trip over to Adelaide on the weekend. Your support throughout the match was much appreciated especially in the circumstances.

I hope you enjoy today's game.

DANNY WRIGHT
Senior Coach

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CLASSY DAMIANOS COULD BE THE KEY

Before transferring overseas to further his footballing career in the Greek First Division, Bill Damianos was one of the leagues most flamboyant and inspirational players.

Damianos a master in the centre of the park scored some memorable goals and before leaving for abroad, won the 1997/98 Championship with the Club. His brilliant first touch, vision and ability to accurately pass a long ball are splendid facets of his game which could be the edge South Melbourne need this season.

The 25 year old, who was signed a week prior to the commencement of this season, has been a great acquisition to the squad. He has comfortably slotted into midfield and once again shown the fans his capabilities driving South Melbourne's attack.

"I am quite happy so far. I haven't reached full fitness as yet but there is good spirit in the team"

"Not much has changed since I left and I am looking forward to playing out the season. We have beat the top teams and there is no reason why we can't make the top six and give the finals a good shake", says Damianos.

He rejoins his former teammates Panopoulos, Clarkson and Trimboli in midfield and while there is a healthy rivalry for first team selection, coach Danny Wright has recently selected Damianos over his more experienced campaigners.

"Lets not forget that the Greek First Division is a quality competition and for Damianos to have played at that level, reflects favourably on the standards he can aspire to", says Wright.

Damianos joined the Club in his mid teens and won a National Youth League Championship with South. He debuted as a substitute against now defunct West Adelaide in 1994/95 and has since played 93 National Soccer League matches all for South Melbourne.

The boy from Melbourne's west, could be the key to South Melbourne's hopes for a record fifth National Championship. If he can continue to produce the colourful football he is known for, the Blue and White army will have plenty to cheer about come finals time.

RND	DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	STADIUM	H/A	TIME
1	Friday	20-Sep	Newcastle United	Energy Stadium	A	Loss 2 - 0
2			BYE			
3	Sunday	6-Oct	Sydney United	Bob Jane Stadium	H	Draw 1-1 Coveny
4	Saturday	12-Oct	Northern Spirit	Brookvale Oval	A	Loss 3-2 Buljan/Kisn
5	Sunday	20-Oct	Perth Glory	Bob Jane Stadium	H	Win 2-0 Baird/Buljan
6	Saturday	26-Oct	Wollongong Wolves	Wade Park, Orange	A	Draw 0-0
7	Sunday	3-Nov	Olympic Sharks	Bob Jane Stadium	H	Win 6-4
8	Sunday	10-Nov	Adelaide City Force	Hindmarsh Stadium	A	Loss 4-0
9	Sunday	17-Nov	Melbourne Knights	Bob Jane Stadium	H	6.00pm
10	Sunday	24-Nov	Marconi Stallions	Bob Jane Stadium	H	6.00pm
11	Sunday	1-Dec	Parramatta Power	Bob Jane Stadium	H	6.00pm
12	Saturday	7-Dec	Brisbane Strikers	Ballymore Stadium	A	7.00pm
13	Sunday	15-Dec	Kingz	Bob Jane Stadium	H	6.00pm
14			BYE			
15	Sunday	29-Dec	Newcastle United	Bob Jane Stadium	H	6.00pm
16	Sunday	5-Jan	Sydney United	S.U. Sports Centre	A	6:00pm
17	Sunday	12-Jan	Northern Spirit	Bob Jane Stadium	H	7:00pm
18	Saturday	18-Jan	Perth GloryPerth Oval	A	7.00pm	
19	Sunday	26-Jan	Wollongong Wolves	Bob Jane Stadium	H	7.00pm
20	Saturday	1-Feb	Olympic Sharks	Toyota Park Cronul	A	7.30pm
21	Sunday	9-Feb	Adelaide City Force	Bob Jane Stadium	H	7.00pm
22	Sunday	16-Feb	Melbourne Knights	Knights Stadium	A	6.00pm
23	Friday	21-Feb	Marconi Stallions	Marconi Stadium	A	7.30pm
24	Saturday	1-Mar	Parramatta Power	Parramatta Stadium	A	7.30pm
25	Sunday	9-Mar	Brisbane Strikers	Bob Jane Stadium	H	7.00pm
26	TBA	TBA	Kingz	TBA	A	TBA

* 2002 - 2003 fixture subject to change

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1	Martin John	Goalkeeper
2	Daniel Piorkowsi	Defender
3	Rodrigo Vargas	Defender
4	Antun Kovacic	Defender
5	Steve Horvat	Defender
6	Andrew Marth	Defender/Mid
7	Daniel Vasilevski	Midfield
8	Daniel Rocco	Midfield
9	Leon Buhic	Striker
10	Nikola Sabljak	Midfield
11	Xhezair Sulemani	Mid/Striker
12	Isyan Erdogan	Midfield
13	Ivan Jolic	Defender/Mid
14	Boris Ovcin	Midfield
15	Daniel Debevc	Striker
16	Bill Natsioulas	Midfield
17	Adrian Cervinski	Striker
18	Henry Fa'Arodo	Mid/Striker
19	Anthony Pelikan	Mid/Striker
20	Adam Hrehoresin	Goalkeeper
21	Serkan Oksuz	Striker
22	Vinko Buljubasic	Defender
25	Ljubo Lapasansky	Midfield

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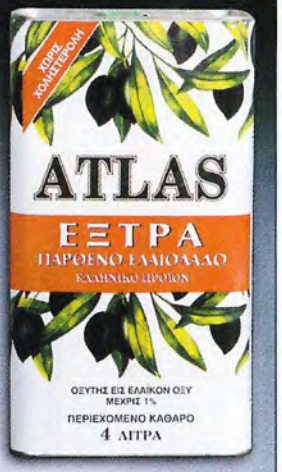

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SOUTH MELBOURNE

1	Dean Anastasiadis	Goakeeper
2	Steve Iosifidis	Defender
3	Fausto De Amicis	Defender
4	Mehmet Durakovic	Defender
5	Robert Liparoti	Defender
6	David Clarkson	Midfield
7	Steve Panopoulos	Midfield
8	Vaughan Coveny	Midfield/Striker
9	Paul Trimboli	Midfield/Striker
10	Peter Buljan	Striker
11	Zeljko Susa	Midfield
12	Radomir Sekulovski	Midfield/Defen
13	Vince Lia	Midfield
14	Stephen Pace	Midfield
15	Nick Tolios	Defender
16	Massimo Murdocca	Midfield
17	Michael Baird	Striker
19	Patrick Kisnorbo	Defender
20	Eugene Galekovic	Goalkeeper
30	Bill Damianos	Midfield

Coach- Danny Wright
Asst. Coach- Peter Tsolakis

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CONGRATULATIONS VAUGHAN COVENY 200 SOUTH MELBOURNE GAMES

VS ADELAIDE CITY FORCE HINDMARSH STADIUM, ADELAIDE- SUNDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2002

Vaughan Coveny became the second player this season to play 200 matches for the Club and has joined six players including current teammates, Trimboli, Panopoulos and Durakovic to have done so.

The New Zealand International who will play in next years Confederation Cup is delighted with the achievement.

"I don't read too much into statistics. It is a great honour to achieve this, especially at club like South Melbourne, which has so much history and is a founding member of the league. I'm proud to have played so many matches for the Club", says Coveny.

"The Club has high expectations and I am lucky to have been here for so many years. It's really cut throat, because if you don't perform, then you wont be here for too long".

Vaughan Coveny is also South Melbourne's fourth highest top NSL goalscorer scorer and sits only 7 goals behind Con Boutsianis and 11 from Charlie Egan.

South Melbourne Highest NSL Goalscorers

110	Paul Trimboli	1988	– Current
73	Charlie Egan	1982	– 1987
69	Con Boutsianis	1989	– 2001/02
62	Vaughan Coveny	1995/96	– Current
48	Doug Brown	1983	– 1986
47	Michael Curcija	1995/96	– 1999/2000
45	Kimon Taliadoros	1987	– 1991/92

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The local derby across world footy is the most eagerly awaited match up on the football calendar.

Whether it's Inter Milan versus AC Milan, Man City against Man U or Sunshine Georges versus Green Gully, the unbridled passion on and off the pitch and the fight to the death for bragging rights not too mention the three points, makes these contests something to savor.

Melbourne's big NSL derby has in more recent times been fought out between South Melbourne and Melbourne Knights. From Jimmy Armstrong to Billy Vojtek; Tommy Cumming to Ulyssis Kokkinos; 'Trimmers' to 'Stabber'; what can be guaranteed and expected is that no quarter will be given or taken and that this will be a last man standing affair.

Slightly dramatic?

Well maybe but the Diegos are nervous. We can smell the sweat, spit and acrimony of a Melbourne derby in the air so sit back and enjoy the battle amigos.

FOUR DIEGOS SUREFIRE CLUES THAT A MELBOURNE DERBY IS COMING ON...

1. Victorian Premier Steve Bracks announces that the Labour government will spend $ 40 million on an anti-terrorism unit for the state.
2. The Albert Park ducks are starting to migrate to Iceland
3. Former Melbourne Knights and South Melbourne stars Danny Tiatto and Kevin Muscat are starting to get twitchy during Manchester City and Glasgow Rangers matches.
4. Former English football legend and Melbourne Knights guest player, Peter Beardsley is having nightmares
5. The 'Save Albert Park' protesters are stepping up their campaign
6. Melbourne Knights and South Melbourne veterans, Steve Horvat and Mehmet Durakovic have started going to discos again and telling young girls that they are independently wealthy, 21 years old and drive a hotted up 1974 Monaro with a 'beast' under the bonnet.
7. Posh Spice attempted to fake her own abduction just so she can get to the game
8. Former Melbourne Knights star, Mark Viduka is poised for another dressing room bust up at Leeds United.
9. Hajduk Split won't allow former Melbourne Knights star and new South Melbourne recruit Zeljko Susa to play just for his own inner peace and tranquility. They really love and care for him you know.
10. Tempers flare in the Diegos household

Enjoy the game amigos!

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Adios amigos!

THREE YOUNG GUNS IN AUSTRALIA UNDER 20 SQUAD

CONGRATULATIONS
Vince Lia, Massimo Murdocca and Michael Baird on your selection in the Australia Under-20 squad for the Oceania World Youth Championship qualifying tournament.

The squad will go into camp in Melbourne on December 1 before departing for Port Vila on December 4. The Young Socceroos will play only two matches in their qualifying group (Group A) on December 7 and 9.

Vince Lia and Michael Baird have had sensational starts to the season, pulsating South Melbourne's attack and played an inspirational role so far. Massimo Murdocca was one of the finds of last season with his fighting spirit, speed and dribbling.

All three players are likely to miss South Melbourne's Round 12 & 13 matches. If Australia qualify in Group A, will meet the Group B winners over two legs with the second leg held on December 22 in Melbourne.

The winner of the playoff shall represent Oceania at the FIFA World Youth Championship to be held in the United Arab Emirates from 25 March - 16 April 2003.

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MELBOURNE DERBIES

.....AND THEN THERE WERE TWO

Since South Melbourne's establishment in 1959, many opposition Club's such as Brunswick, Footscray, Sunshine, Heidelberg, Carlton and Eastern Pride just to name a few, have fallen by the wayside. South Melbourne along with the Melbourne's Knights still remain as the only Victorian Clubs at the pinnacle of Australian Soccer.

South Melbourne has been involved in some of the most memorable Victorian derbies ever seen in Australian soccer history. The older generation will remember the former Victorian First Division, when Middle Park crowd's doubled in 1962. 21,000 spectators flocked to see South take on Brunswick and later 25,000 saw South and Sunshine. In the same season Brunswick played host to South Melbourne at Olympic Park in front of another bumper 25,000 crowd. South Melbourne won that match 1 – 0.

In a match that produced an extraordinary scoreline and one that some South Melbourne supporters may remember well, was in 1973 when a 7-7 draw was played away to Ringwood Wilhelmina.

Evidently crowds have dropped since the ripe 1960's, but there has been no shortage of on field competition in recent times. Only last week did we experienced one of the National Soccer Leagues most entertaining and amazing matches.

Heidelberg, South Melbourne's archrival, shared one of the largest Melbourne rivalries with some intense clashes, which included the 1984 Southern Conference Final. Crowds would consistently flock to see the traditional derbies in which South Melbourne held the upper hand.

Carlton came on the scene and quickly became a rival for the Lakesiders in the late 1990's. In their short four-year NSL spell they formed some memorable matches. The 1997/98 Finals series and Grand Final went down to the wire and produced many fireworks. A season later both club's fought out a 4 – 4 draw at Bob Jane Stadium and in 1999/2000 South defeated the now defunct Club 5 – 3 at Olympic Park.

Who could forget the 1991 Grand Final against the Knights when 23,318 patrons packed Olympic Park to see the Blue and Whites score a last gasp winner and take out the title in a nail bitting penalty shootout.

Melbourne Knights have held strong in trying times within the National Competition. They have always been stern opposition and no doubt they will prove this once again today. In the early 1990's South lost five Preliminary finals in a row, with one of the not so memorable in season 1994-95, when Mark Viduka scored a hattrick to sink South Melbourne 3 – 2.

The most important aspect about our rivalries is that it remains on the field and that matches are remembered for the entertainment both teams are capable of producing in 90 minutes of competitive football.

South Melbourne and Melbourne Knights have been successful in recent times with both clubs winning Back-to-Back Championships in the mid to late 1990's. Fifty matches have been played between the two Clubs with South Melbourne having the wood over the Knights in head to head matches.

Head to Head- South Melbourne .vs. Melbourne Knights

ALL MATCHES					
Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against
50	22	16	12	75	55
AT HOME					
Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against
20	9	8	3	30	20

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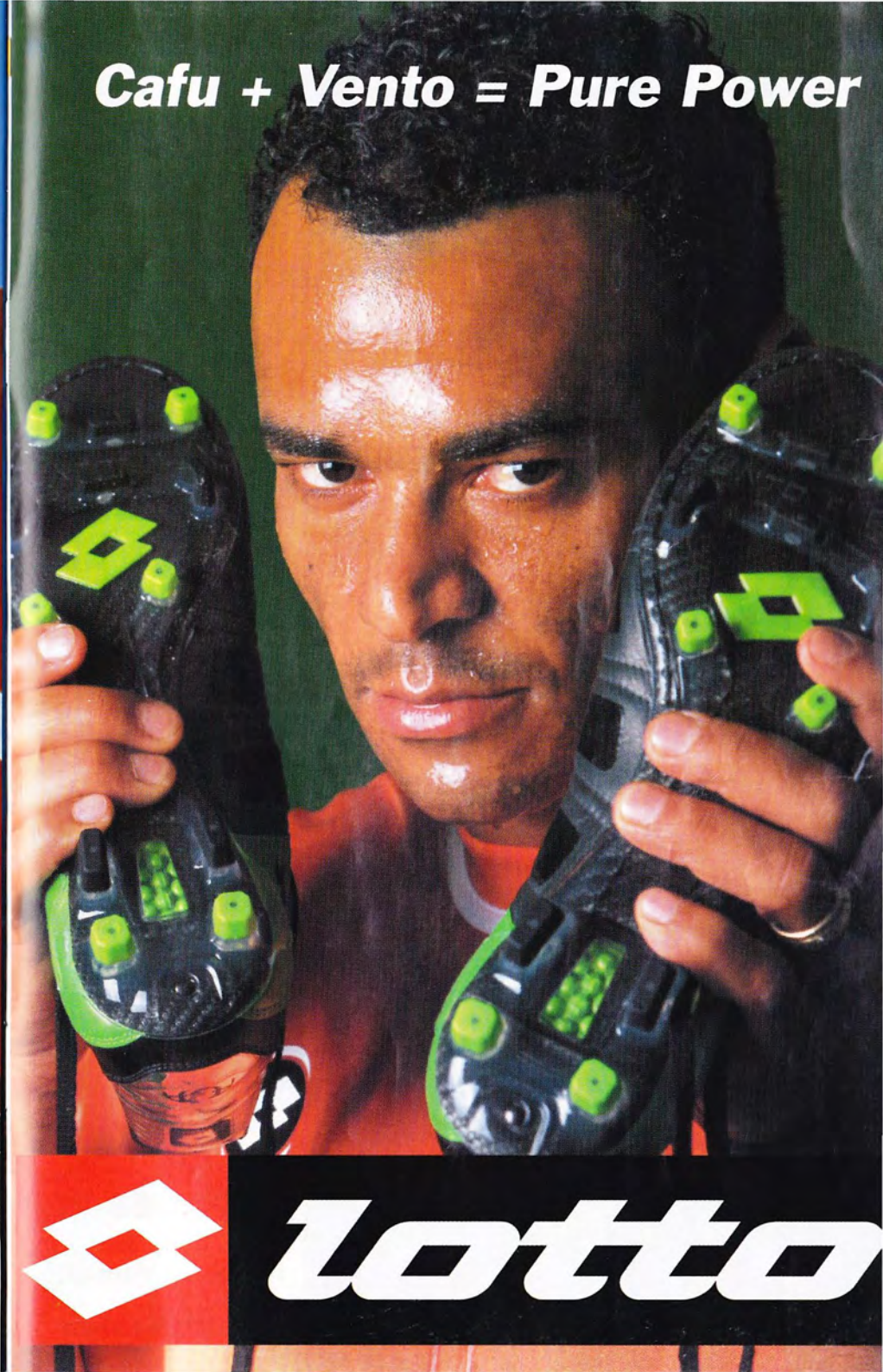

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